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Japan in the Beginning of the 20th Century. viii and 827 pp. No index. Imperial Japanese Commission to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, Tokyo, 1904.

An official and exhaustive work, compiled in the various departments of the Japanese Government for foreign readers, and of value to all who wish to acquaint themselves with the material condition of Japan. It deals with geography, population, government, and land system of the empire; with the primary industries of agriculture and stock-raising, mining and the fisheries; with the manufacturing industries, their encouragement and protection, and industrial education; with the foreign trade, finances, currency, and banking; with communications by post, telegraph, and telephone; and with transportation and education. A supplement of 50 pp. gives similar information concerning Formosa.

The section on the geography of Japan is little more than a bare summary of the orographic and hydrographic features, their position, and extent, and of the leading towns and ports of the country. Heights are given in terms of the Japanese *shaku*, which, however, is so nearly equivalent to 1 foot (.994) that heights expressed in this denomination may be used by readers of English without much difficulty. The geology of the empire is treated in a chapter on minerals, but is chiefly confined to the economic aspects of the subject.

Europe and the Far East. By Sir Robert K. Douglas. viii and 450 pp., 2 black and 2 coloured maps and index. The University Press, Cambridge, 1904. (Price, 7s. 6d.)

This volume is one of the Cambridge Historical Series, the aim of which is "to sketch the history of modern Europe with that of its chief colonies and conquests, from about the end of the fifteenth century down to the present time." Prof. Douglas's contribution deals with the relations between the European nations and the countries of China, Japan, Annam, and Siam. In a book of medium size like this it is, of course, necessary to treat in a summary manner a great deal of the information given on so large a topic, but Prof. Douglas's style is animated and his narrative is interesting. He treats each of these eastern countries separately in their relations with Europe, and gives considerable attention to their physical features, natural resources, and means of communication, all of which have their influence upon the political, philanthropic, and other relations between Europe and the East which he unfolds. He appends a long bibliography for those who desire to extend their studies, and has this to say about the use of the hyphen in Chinese names:

The use of the hyphen in Chinese words is often misleading. It used to be the habit to separate each syllable of a Chinese name by a hyphen, which is no more necessary than it would be to write Win-chester or Peters-burg. This usage is gradually becoming obsolete. We now write Peking instead of Pe-king, Shanghai instead of Shang-hai; and the old practice, where unnecessary, will, no doubt, die out in time.

A short article on Chinese geographical terms gives the meaning of a considerable number of syllables or words that are much used in Chinese place-names. The book will be very helpful to those who seek to interpret recent events in the light of the causes which led up to them.

A Russo-Chinese Empire. (An English Version of "Un Empire Russo-Chinois.") By Alexandre Ular. xix and 301 pp. and index. Archibald Constable & Co., Ltd., Westminster, 1904. (Price, 7s. 6d.)

This political essay is based upon the history of events in East Asia within the past 40 years, and especially upon the Russian advance on China, by which, accord-